weightage. The requirement of the Union Territories in the region is to be met through appropriate allocations; and

(iii) 15% of the power to be kept as unallocated at the disposal of the Central Government for meeting the urgent requirement of the individual States in the region from time to time.

Funds for power sector

11421. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds earmarked for the development, maintenance, etc. of the power sector in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the target set for setting-up of new power plants in the country during this period and to enhance their capacity and production;

(c) whether Government proposes to set-up an independent National Energy Fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the positive steps Government is taking to improve power distribution system and to stop pilferage of electricity, so that power supply can be ensured?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Working Group on Power for the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) based on certain assumptions, has estimated a total fund requirement of about Rs. 10,31,600 crores for the power sector as a whole, which includes generation projects, transmission projects and distribution including rural electrification, human resource development, R&D etc. A capacity addition of 78,577 MW has been proposed for 11* Plan. According to information received from Planning Commission, the 11* Plan capacity addition target and outlay have not been finalized by it so far.

(c) and (d) According to information received from Planning Commission, the Expert Committee on the Integrated Energy Policy inter-alia recommended that National Energy Fund (NEF) should be set up to finance energy Research and Development (R&D).

(e) Electricity is a concurrent subject and the responsibility of distribution segment rests with the States. However, Central Government has launched Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme in the year 2002-03 in order to reduce aggregate technical and commercial losses, improving quality of supply of power, increasing revenue collection and improving consumer satisfaction. Under the investment component of APDRP, financial assistance was given to the States as additional central assistance over and above the normal central plan allocation, for strengthening and upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system. Furthermore, to enable effective control on theft of electricity, the Electricity Act, 2003 has incorporated specific provisions for detection of theft, speedy trial of theft related offences and also for recovery of charges of electricity stolen. Theft of electricity has been explicitly made a congnizable offence. The distribution licensees have been empowered to disconnect the supply of electricity upon detection of theft. The penalty for repeated theft of electricity by large consumers has also been enhanced.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi